THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

16 February 1995

AM 10:00 CONVENE, 441 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of minutes:

19 January 1995

B. Dates of next meetings:

29 March 1995
20 April 1995

C. Site inspections of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and U.S. Naval Observatory (actions tabled from CFA meeting 19 January 1995): results.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. National Park Service, National Capital Region

1. CFA 16/Feb/95-1, George Mason Memorial. Approval of selected site, a fountain feature situated at the east end of the Inlet Bridge over the Tidal Basin.

2. CFA 16/Feb/95-2, Mall Access Master Plan. Addition of paved walkways on existing gravel paths. Concept design.

B. Department of Defense

CFA 16/Feb/95-3, The Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia. Renovation of River Terrace and handicapped access.

C. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 95-16, American Red Cross, West Building, 431 18th Street, N.W. Alterations to roof and new windows. Conceptual.

b. Appendix I.

2. Old Georgetown Act

Appendix II.

Discussion item not on the agenda: Painting of the Netherlands Carillon, p. 9.

SHIPSTEAD-LUCE SUBMISSIONS

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
S.L. 95-13	800 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Hastings Development Corp. Vox Populi International Cafe	Sidewalk cafe - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed outdoor cafe on H Street, although the desirability of placing an outdoor seating area over access grilles to Pepco vault at sidewalk as shown is questionable. Submit separate application for signs for review when ready.

S.L. 95-14	444 North Capitol Street, N.W. First Union National Bank	Alterations to storefront - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed alterations to storefront as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 14 February 1995 which indicate only one sign box over entry on North Capitol Street and one sign box on E Street. Submit separate application for signs for review when ready.

S.L. 95-15 HPA. 95-139	2346 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Haft Residence	Addition of bay window - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed addition of bay window. Question proportions and detailing.

S.L. 95-17	600 Maryland Avenue, S.W. Boston Properties First Union National Bank	Signs - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed addition of First Union sign above existing free standing sign or to change of color of background for existing signs to green.

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
S.L. 95-18 HPA. 95-146	200 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. Exxon Co. Gas station	New pump and sign pole - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept of proposed new pump. Recommend AGAINST concept for pole-mounted sign. See previous Action (S.L. 89-216). Recommend keeping sign on brick base as previously approved. See previous Action (S.L. 93-79). Recommend applying Exxon lettering on existing sign panels over pump stations.

S.L. 95-19	740 15th Street, N.W. The James O. Broadhead Corp. First Union National Bank	Relocation of ATM machine, light fixtures and sign - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed light fixtures, sign plaque and relocation of ATM machine to a more handicapped accessible site. New window to replace old ATM site will match existing windows in detailing and materials as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated February 1995.

S.L. 95-20	800 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Royal Operating Co. The Oval Room	Sidewalk cafe - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed sidewalk cafe at entrance to restaurant and behind existing planter on Connecticut Avenue as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 16 February 1995. A temporary fence as indicated is inappropriate. Recommend use of existing planters to demarcate seating area.

OLD GEORGETOWN SUBMISSIONS

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 95-18 HPA. 95-52	1715 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Mrs. Yoshimoto The Japan Inn	Two-story addition - revised concept

ACTION: No objection to revised concept design for proposed addition to existing restaurant structure as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 1 February 1995. The revised design emphasizes the horizontal character of the building by eliminating the elevator tower from the front facade. Submit working drawings for review when ready.

O.G. 95-29 HPA. 95-87	3206 N Street, N.W. Robert Elliott CrePizza	Outdoor cafe - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to the concept of an outdoor cafe at this location. Submit working drawings for review when ready.

O.G. 95-36 HPA. 95-116	1227 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Nine West Group Commercial	Sign on window glass - permit

ACTION: Recommend **AGAINST** issuance of permit for proposed sign painted on display window which has been submitted in addition to a sign already approved for this establishment. See previous Action (O.G. 95-30).

O.G. 95-38 HPA. 95-119	3206 N Street, N.W. Robert Elliott CrePizza	Glass vestibule and awning (existing) - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for existing glass vestibule which conforms to recommended concept design (see previous Action, O.G. 94-67). Applicant has agreed to remove the canvas side panels of the awning covering the vestibule roof in order to secure full approval.

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 95-39 HPA. 95-121	3206 N Street, N.W. Robert Elliott CrePizza	Signs and awnings (existing) - permit

ACTION: Recommend **AGAINST** issuance of permit for ANY sign at this time. There are a large number of existing signs that have been erected without permit at this location but have been withheld temporarily from the review process. The Commission disapproves the single existing sign submitted pending resolution or submission of the entire package.

O.G. 95-40 HPA. 95-122	3700 O Street, N.W. Georgetown University Darnell Hall	Building addition and replacement windows - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to design concept for building addition, new landscaping and replacement windows. Submit working drawings and material samples for review when ready.

O.G. 95-41 HPA. 95-123	1211 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Roberto Donna Restaurant Il Radicchio Deli Il Pane	Signs, awning, decals and banner - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for modified design as shown in red-lined drawings. Applicant has agreed to delete the proposed projecting banner sign, the signs at the awning end panels and lettering from the ends of the awning valance (retaining the sign centered on the valance). No objection to side wall sign or to signs painted on the glass panels of the entrance doors. Recommend EITHER painting the entire building one color OR removing the existing paint from the building entirely so as to expose the natural brick.

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 95-42 HPA. 95-125	2615 P Street, N.W. Traditional Property Mgmt. Office	Awning - permit

ACTION: No objection to issuance of permit for proposed shed type awning as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 9 February 1995. Recommend removal of existing non-functional shutters at display window which are inappropriate to size of window opening.

O.G. 95-43 HPA. 95-126	1258 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. GAP, Inc.	Replacement of sidewalk - permit

ACTION: Returned without Action. Submission was withdrawn by written request from applicant.

O.G. 95-44 HPA. 95-131	3225 N Street, N.W. Residence	Rear addition - conceptual

ACTION: Returned without Action. Proposed work is not visible from public space. Refer to the Historic Preservation Review Board.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS PRE-MEETING TOUR

16 February 1995

CONVENE: 8:00 AM, Pension Building, Suite 312,
441 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

1. Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Main Campus, Washington, D.C.

2. U.S. Naval Observatory, Massachusetts Avenue at 34th Street, N.W.

3. George Mason Memorial. Selected site, a fountain feature situated at the east end of the Inlet Bridge over the Tidal Basin.

4. The Mall. Addition of paved walkways on existing gravel paths.

Members Present:
The Hon. J. Carter Brown
The Hon. Rex M. Ball
The Hon. Carolyn S. Brody
The Hon. Jeannine Smith Clark
The Hon. Eden D. Rafshoon
The Hon. Harry G. Robinson
The Hon. Susan Porter Rose

Staff Present:
Charles H. Atherton
Jeffrey R. Carson
Jose Martinez-Canino
Donald B. Myer

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

16 February 1995

The meeting was convened at 11:07 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at the Pension Building, 441 F Street, N.W., after a tour of project sites.

Members present:	Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman Hon. Rex M. Ball Hon. Carolyn Brody Hon. Jeannine Smith Clark Hon. Eden Rafshoon Hon. Harry G. Robinson III Hon. Susan Porter Rose
Staff present:	Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson Mrs. Sue Kohler Mr. José Martínez-Canino
National Capital Planning Commission staff present:	Mr. Patrick Tribe

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of minutes, 19 January 1995. Mrs. Clark asked that the draft of the minutes be amended to include her comment on the death of former chairman William Walton. The change was agreed to and subsequently made (see page 13).

The Secretary noted for the record that the Chairman and he had attended the memorial services for the former Chairman at the Century Club in New York. Mr. Atherton said Mr. Brown had spoken at the service about Mr. Walton's work at the Commission, and also recalled Arthur Schlesinger's remarks about Walton's wartime service as a journalist, when he parachuted into Normandy with the first wave of D-Day troops.

Returning to the approval of the minutes, Mrs. Rose asked that additional statements be inserted in her comments about using the portrait of a living person on a coin, during the discussion of the Special Olympics commemorative coin. The changes were agreed to and subsequently made (see page 9). The Chairman commented that he had been surprised when the Secretary of the Treasury overturned the decision of his own advisory committee and approved the coin. (The Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee had upheld their guidelines and turned down the representation of a living person on a coin.)

B. Dates of next meetings, approved as:

29 March 1995
20 April 1995

C. Site inspection of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and U. S. Naval Observatory (actions tabled from CFA meeting 19 January 1995): results. Discussion postponed until later in the meeting; see page 7.

D. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Mrs. Clark announced that there had been discussion among the members and a slate had been drawn up for the positions of chairman and vice-chairman of the Commission; it consisted of J. Carter Brown as chairman and Harry G. Robinson III as vice-chairman. She asked for a show of hands in approval, and the slate was then unanimously approved.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. National Park Service, National Capital Region

1. CFA 16/FEB/95-1, George Mason Memorial. Approval of selected site, a fountain feature situated at the east end of the Inlet Bridge over the Tidal Basin. The Secretary noted for the record that the members had seen the site on their pre-meeting tour; he said it was called Fountain #4 by the Park Service and was located at the Washington end of the George Mason Bridge.

Mr. Atherton then introduced John Parsons from the Park Service to begin the presentation. Mr. Parsons pointed out the location on an aerial photograph and said it had been approved by the National Capital Memorial Commission about a year ago. He said the name came from the fact that it was the site of one of four fountains that existed many years ago. He introduced Thomas Lainhoff, the head of Gunston Hall, Mason's home in Virginia. Mr. Lainhoff said the Board of Regents was pleased with the site and in 1993 had asked the landscape architecture firm of Rhodeside and Harwell to design the memorial. He asked Faye Harwell to discuss her plans with the members.

Ms. Harwell said they had been offered sites in three locations in Area I: (1) the western end of Virginia Avenue; (2) Constitution Gardens; and (3) the Jefferson Memorial area. She showed slides of each location, pointing out the advantages and disadvantages of each. She said the Virginia Avenue location was too far away from the Jefferson Memorial, since they wanted in some way to recognize the friendship and the philosophical and political relationship between Jefferson and Mason. Constitution Gardens already had a number of memorials, and since Mason had refused to sign the Constitution because of the lack of a Bill of Rights, it did not seem a good choice. However, the Signers Memorial in that area seemed close in size and character to what they envisioned for George Mason.

Ms. Harwell said a location near the Jefferson Memorial seemed ideal, and of the several suggested, the one at Fountain #4, near the George Mason Bridge, offered the most advantages. It offered winter views of the Jefferson Memorial and the possibility of summer views with careful pruning of tree material; it was secluded yet visible from public roads; and it could take advantage of an already existing historic landscape and fountain. Ms. Harwell said the landscaping dated from 1931 and included a pool and fountain as well as flower beds, most notably the pansy beds beloved by all who saw them, as well as hedges and attractive specimen trees.

Mr. Parsons commented that the Park Service and the National Capital Memorial Commission had developed guidelines for the site which required retention of the existing landscape, but allowed for upgrading of the smaller plant material, paving, and lighting, although the level of light could not be increased. He said there could be no buildings on the site, and any vertical elements would have to be in the range of 9-12 feet.

The Chairman asked what the memorial elements would be. Ms. Harwell said there were very few images of Mason, but his words were very powerful and so quotations would supply the memorial theme; she mentioned as examples the American Bill of Rights and a similar document adopted by the government of France after the Revolution. She said there was no design as yet, but there was a possibility of including a trellis to provide shade and a place from which to read the quotations.

The Chairman said he was not sure about the effect of an overhead structure. He said the openness of the site was what was so attractive and so appropriate to Mason, and it would stand in contrast to the mass of the nearby Jefferson Memorial and the linear construction of the FDR memorial; he thought this one should be completely different. Mr. Ball said that as Mason was a person of the land, the site was suitable as it was; he thought the design would have to be very good to honor Mason and yet not disturb the site.

There was no further discussion, and the proposed site was unanimously approved. Exhibit A

2. CFA 16/FEB/95-2, Mall Access Master Plan. Addition of paved walkways on existing gravel paths. Concept design. Staff member Jeffrey Carson introduced this project, saying that there had been complaints from people in wheelchairs that the present Mall walk system was not easily accessible, and the Park Service was attempting to address this. He said the plan was to pave 15 feet of the 40-foot-wide packed earth and gravel walks running east-west; the north-south walks would be entirely paved. He noted that the Commission had visited the Mall on their pre-meeting tour, and then introduced Arnold Goldstein, the Park Service's superintendent of the Monumental Core area.

Mr. Goldstein said there had been complaints for many years about the surface of the Mall walks, which had been installed in 1976, and a recent formal complaint by a wheelchair owner. He said the Park Service had agreed to look at the problem and had first put in a temporary 5-foot-wide exposed aggregate paved section on one of the 15-foot-wide crosswalks at the Mall Metro station; then a 6-foot-wide section was added at the 9th Street crosswalk. He noted that walks crossing the Mall at 3rd, 7th and 14th streets had already been paved under a contract with the D. C. Government. A wide range of alternatives was discussed before a final proposal was drawn up.

Mr. Goldstein showed a drawing of the entire Mall, pointing out that all the walks crossing the Mall north-south would be paved. He said most of these were 15 feet wide, a few, connecting museums, were 40 feet. The east-west walks, 40 feet in width, would include a 15-foot paved section, placed next to the tree panels. Benches and lights would be within the paved area. Mr. Goldstein also pointed out proposed new paths in the Capitol Reflecting Pool area. He showed a photograph of the graveled earth and aggregate paving together, saying that there was not a great deal of difference in the color or texture.

Mr. Ball asked what the reason had been for using the packed earth--did it come from French antecedents? Mr. Goldstein said it was shown on the Skidmore, Owings & Merrill Mall plan of 1965. Mr. Ball said he would like to see as much of it remain as possible, that in the photo the texture indicated that it was something special. Mr. Goldstein said that practical matters also had to be considered.

The Chairman asked if every cross axis had to be paved, if the intermediate paths could not be left as is; he also asked why the paved area had to be as wide as 15 feet. He said he realizied what the Park Service was up against, and he thought they had been very sensitive in their choice of paving material, if it had to be used. But he said he had talked to a person in a wheelchair--the head of

one of the handicapped action committees--who had tried out the natural surface paths and said that although they were not as convenient, he could live with them. The Chairman said he liked the humanizing, civilizing feeling of the packed earth, and he noted that it was seen everywhere in Europe in park areas. He commented that the Mall was a park, and the earthen walks made a nice contrast with the hardscape of the city streets.

Mrs. Clark asked how the vents that occured in various places, particularly around the Metro station, would be treated; Mr. Goldstein said that had not been worked out yet, but it would be looked at. She asked if folders could be made available showing where the access points were; Mr. Goldstein said he did not think that would be necessary as there would be no impediments along the entire Mall. Mr. Robinson said he would like to see a drawing that made it clear just where the paved areas were--something with the paving done in red, for example, so that the pattern could be seen. He observed that the paving would change the whole character of the Mall. Mrs. Brody thought the paved areas should be minimized along the east-west axis, which constituted the long view of the Mall; perhaps only two, rather than four, would be necessary.

The Chairman commented that only the political view required the extreme solution; he said the Americans with Disabilities Act required only accessibility, not accessibility in the easiest, most convenient way possible. He said if paving had to be added, he would like to see a scheme that eliminated it between 7th and 9th streets and east-west down the center of the Mall. He thought the Mall was entirely accessible now, although undoubtedly it was easier to maneuver a wheelchair on pavement than on an earthen surface. He said the Commission had to think about the majority of people using the Mall, about its appearance, and how it could be protected. Mr. Ball thought the Capitol Reflecting Pool walks should also be packed earth, although Mr. Goldstein said two hard surface paths already existed.

The Chairman told Mr. Goldstein that the Commission could come to no decision at this point; he said better drawings, more information and further study along the lines suggested were needed for presentation at a subsequent meeting. Exhibit B

B. Department of Defense

CFA 16/FEB/95-3, The Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia. Renovation of River Terrace and handicapped access. Mr. Carson said this was part of an ongoing restoration process at the Pentagon; he said he had been attending meetings on the various projects for some time. This submission was for restoration of the existing limestone terrace and the addition of handicapped accessibility ramps and lifts. He introduced Harriet Ross of the Pentagon.

Ms. Ross outlined the three parts of the project: 1) Repair or replacement of the stone; 2) Handicapped accessibility; and 3) Changes to accommodate various ceremonial functions held on the terrace. She said it would be a phased project and they would not be able to do the whole terrace at once. She introduced architect Davis Buckley to describe his proposals.

Mr. Buckley showed photographs of existing conditions, discussed the repairs proposed, and showed drawings of the handicapped ramps, which would provide accessibility from the River Terrace to the Upper Parade Field, and of the lifts, which would make accessibile the River Terrace Portico. He also pointed out ramps for transporting howitzers from the Lower Parade Field to the Upper Parade Field for use during ceremonies.

Ms. Ross commented that the River Terrace was a very important ceremonial place for visiting dignities, and Mr. Ball said it offered a great opportunity to develop an impressive water entrance; he noted that the same opportunity existed at the new Southeast Federal Center.

There were no objections to the plans, which were unanimously approved. Ms. Ross and Mr. Buckley were told that, as it was a phased project, they did not need to come back in the future for other phases of the approved work. Exhibit C

C. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 95-16, American Red Cross, West Building, 431 18th Street, N.W. Alterations to roof and new windows. Conceptual. Mr. Martínez said this submission was for the addition of cooling towers to the attic space of the west building of the Red Cross complex, and for window replacement. He introduced John Keegan of the Red Cross to discuss the overall plans for the Red Cross buildings in Washington.

Mr. Keegan said the work on the west building was part of a 1993 plan that had as its goal the upgrading and historic preservation of the Red Cross buildings in Washington and the improvement of the working environment for the employees; the ultimate goal was to vacate rented space outside the city and consolidate all activity within the 17th and 18th Street buildings and the old local Red Cross building nearby on E Street. Mr. Keegan said that in the past there had been plans to tear down the 18th Street building and erect a new building to the south, but these had been abandoned.

Architect Louis Howie, from RTKL, spoke next. He said there were two aspects to this submission. The first was the placement of cooling towers on the roof of the 18th Street building to serve

all buildings on the site; this was part of a new underground central HVAC system. The second aspect was the replacement of the windows in that building.

He showed drawings for three different schemes for the cooling towers: one showed an extension of the central element of the facade up through the roof level; the second placed the cooling towers in two dormers; the third, and least conspicious, placed them in two roof monitors. He said the third scheme was the preferred one, and the Commission agreed with his choice. Turning to the window replacement, he said they would like to replace the 1931 aluminum windows in kind, and they would be operable. There were no objections, and the cooling towers and window replacement were unanimously approved. Exhibit D

b. Appendix I. Mrs. Rose had a question about the sidewalk cafe at 800 Connecticut Avenue (S.L. 95-13). She asked if it was intended that the tables be placed over the PEPCO vault access grilles mentioned in the Commission's action. Mr. Martínez said they would not be placed in that area. She also had a question about the signs at 444 North Capitol Street, N.W. (S.L. 95-14), which was answered by Mr. Martínez.

There were no other questions and the Appendix was approved without exception.

2. Old Georgetown Act

Appendix II. The Chairman asked about the height of a proposed addition to the Japan Inn at 1715 Wisconsin Avenue (O.G. 95-18). He was told there would be no increase in the height of the building, and that the horizontal addition would be roofed with handmade Japanese tiles and would provide a more Japanese-style entrance for the restaurant.

There were no other questions and the Appendix was approved without exception.

The Submissions and Reviews part of the agenda having been completed, the Commission returned to Item C under Administration:

Site inspections of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and U. S. Naval Observatory (actions tabled from CFA meeting 19 January 1995): results.

Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The Chairman noted for the record that prior to the public meeting the Commission had met on the Walter Reed campus with John Parsons, the acting chairman of NCPC, and several of the appointed members and staff of that commission, and officials from the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, to inspect the proposed site for the new guest house and discuss the design problems noted during the January meeting.

At the Chairman's request, the Assistant Secretary showed drawings of the previously approved physical fitness building to be built across from the guest house, as well as a plan of the area, showing existing and proposed structures, and an aerial photo of the campus, pointing out the site in question. The Chairman asked about the height of the physical fitness building compared to the guest house, and Mr. Myer said it would be considerably lower. The Chairman commented that when that building was approved, the Commission had no knowledge of plans for the guest house. He noted the members' observations, during the site inspection, on the beauty of the hill and the numerous fine trees on the guest house site; he recalled Mr. Parsons' comment that perhaps this was a time when both commissions should "just say no". He said there was no doubt that the members' previous feelings about the importance of retaining the existing axis were confirmed by the site inspection.

Mr. Ball said that after the site visit he was convinced that the size of the service courtyard could not be doubled, nor could the hill be leveled. He noted that the existing trees were mature and were now the size and scale of a building. Mr. Robinson said if the site were going to be used for a guest house, the building would have to be specifically designed for it, and he thought a cluster design might be the only way to go. Mrs. Brody thought the architects should begin anew or find a different site; she did not think they understood what the Commission was saying.

The Chairman observed that the Planning Commission had in a sense been responsible for the siting problem, that the insistence on keeping the axis open had altered the original parti, which at least showed a symmetrical building; he thought, however, that NCPC now agreed with this commission's position. In answer to the Chairman's question, the Assistant Secretary said the Planning Commission, even though it had already approved the guest house, could reconsider its action. There was a discussion about how the project got this far before the Commission was asked to look at it. The Chairman said the guest house was being built with outside financing, not by Walter Reed, and perhaps this explained how things got out of the usual channels. It was agreed that the Commission's concerns as a result of the site inspection would be transmitted by letter to the Army officials at Walter Reed.

Exhibit E

U. S. Naval Observatory. Mr. Carson showed an aerial photo of the area and pointed out the Vice-President's residence and the site for the chiller. The Secretary informed the members that architect Belinda Reeder, known for her historic preservation work, had been retained as the architect for the Vice-President's house; he said he had mentioned the chiller location to her, and she said she had not been told about it. The Chairman said for the record that after seeing the site and finding that it was not a flat area, the members agreed that the chiller could be nestled in the contours of the land with plantings around it so that it would not be noticeable; tall trees, however, were not recommended. A site

in an area of trees near the house, which the members had previously thought to be preferable, was not recommended because the trees would be disturbed. The Chairman asked that Ms. Reeder be informed of the Commission's action. Exhibit F

Netherlands Carillon. Mrs. Clark asked for a discussion of a letter from the Park Service regarding the use of a satin finish paint for the Carillon. It was recalled that the Commission had asked for a flat finish. The Secretary said he had been told the satin finish was more durable, more impervious to weathering. He noted that the color was a rich brown/black with blue undertones. The Chairman said he thought the important thing was that it would not be glossy; he said he recognized that a satin finish would be easier to maintain and weather better than a flat finish. There were no objections to the use of the satin finish.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

3 March 1995

EXHIBIT A

Dear Mr. Stanton:

During its meeting 16 February 1995, the Commission reviewed and approved the selected site for the George Mason Memorial. The "Pansy Garden", Site 4, near the Jefferson Memorial was considered a most appropriate location for the memorial.

The Commission agrees with Park Service design guidelines that discourage the installation of any vertical structure on the site. The fact is that the present gardens are so well designed that any intervention of new design elements is to be kept to a minimum, including new walls and paving.

We look forward to the consideration of the design studies for the memorial as they develop. As always, the staff is available to assist you.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Robert Stanton
Regional Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

EXHIBIT B

3 March 1995

Dear Mr. Stanton:

During its meeting of 16 February 1995, the Commission reviewed concept plans for paving over a portion of the Mall walkway system and concluded that more thought must be given to the perceived problem of handicapped access through this area. The members considered the situation carefully, noting that the Mall is not just another urban green space but the cultural and symbolic heart of the Nation. This fact is reason enough to pause before tampering with any part of it.

For centuries the parks of Europe have provided inspiration to all who have seen them. Those same parks and gardens offer as much inspiration on the eve of the 21st century as they did when the McMillan Commission toured and photographed them in 1901. Significantly, they still retain the same carefully tended and smoothly packed earth and gravel walks today as they did when Frederick Law Olmsted, Junior, captured their images, recording for future consideration the details that made those public spaces so successful. In each case, natural walks show up clearly, a welcome foil to the often rigid geometries and conditions of the neighboring streetscapes.

The Americans With Disabilities Act was designed to make public transportation, buildings and spaces as accessible as reasonably possible without undue harm or damage to our cultural heritage. This caveat to the Act acknowledges the rights and needs of all Americans, not just a small minority. It is designed to protect our cultural resources whether that resource happens to be the Jefferson Memorial or the Mall. The Act recognizes that not everything can be made equally convenient to everyone at all times.

In simple terms, the Mall is a landmark and is known throughout the world for its symbolism and design. In that light, paving over the walks is a fundamental change in character that must be viewed with great trepidation. Ironically, the attempt to "soften the blow" by paving only a portion of the walks will not only introduce a tertiary geometry that currently does not exist, but may exacerbate the perceived problem by drawing attention to it with the introduction of two very different surface treatments.

3 March 1995
Mr. Stanton

The point that we must remember is that the Mall is accessible now. There are no barriers to its use. It may not be always perfectly convenient, but that is the nature of a park and life in general. This does not mean that there is no room for improvement. If similar public parks with earthen walks work in Europe, then taking a closer look at the installation and current maintenance of the Mall walkway system should be the first order of business. What is the maintenance schedule; how often are the walks rolled and soft areas repaired?

The Commission is available to work with you closely on this challenge and will consider whatever specific variations, compromises, or thoughts you may have concerning the best possible approach to any problems concerning the Mall.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Robert Stanton
Regional Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

cc. John Parsons

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

3 March 1995

EXHIBIT C

Dear Mr. Humphrey:

During its meeting of 16 February 1995, the Commission reviewed and approved the proposed partial renovation of the River Portico and Terrace at the Pentagon. Note is made that this renovation has led your office to consider handicapped accessibility with respect to the ADA. The resulting proposed changes not only provide wheelchair access to the upper terrace and portico but provide an aesthetic improvement over current conditions. The members also favorably considered provisions for the Howitzer access to the upper terrace from the lower terrace.

In encouraging your office to extend this renovation program to the remainder of the terrace, the Commission is confident that the endeavor can be achieved without further formal review.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Elbert R. Humphrey
Director, Management Division
Pentagon Renovation and Planning Office
Department of Defense
Washington Headquarters Services
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

cc. Harriett Ross

EXHIBIT D

AGENDA ITEM EXHIBIT

16 February 1995

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
S.L. 95-16 HPA. 95-140	431 18th Street, N.W. American Red Cross Office building	Alterations to roof and new windows - conceptual

ACTION: No objection to concept design for proposed window replacement and alterations to roof for the installation of cooling towers in attic space, as shown in supplemental drawings received and dated 17 february 1995 which indicate a pair of identical monitor-like structures centered over the roof ridge. Submit working drawings for review when ready.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

EXHIBIT E

3 March 1995

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

The Commission met with representatives of the Corps of Engineers, and the National Capital Planning Commission 16 February 1995 to inspect the site of the proposed Guest House facility at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. In discussing alternatives to the design presented in January, the Commission agrees with the Planning Commission that a model is necessary to study the siting. Both the architecture and the proposed site plan need restudy. Since we cannot approve the proposed configuration, NCPC's offer to reopen their review should be pursued. If this site is to be reassessed, it should be with the goals of enhancing the existing topography and landscape, blending with the existing architectural and urban design character, and the highest level of design excellence.

Design guidelines and a master plan are only as effective as the skills of those working on individual projects. Beyond that, the two commissions and the Corps should look at increased coordination through overview of current and future projects. During our site visit it was suggested by one of our members that adaptive use of existing buildings should also be considered as a long-term opportunity. In the meantime, our staff is ready to work with Mr. Geyer and his team.

Sincerely,

J . Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Richard C. Armstrong, P.E.
Chief, Engineering Division
Department of the Army
U.S. Corps of Engineers
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

copy: NCPC & Parsons @NPS

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

THE PENSION BUILDING
441 F STREET, N.W., SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX

EXHIBIT F

3 March 1995

Dear Mr. Faught:

During its 16 February 1995 meeting, the Commission met with representatives of the Navy on the grounds of the Vice President's residence to inspect possible sites for relocation of the existing air conditioning compressor. Following the inspection, the Commission concluded that the site proposed for the unit is probably the best. If the unit is installed between the drive and the walkway and supplemented with additional low planting, it is doubtful that it could be seen from any major vantage point.

Tall landscaping would only serve to obscure the house from the street. To minimize further the visibility of the unit, a metal grate should be installed at grade level and painted a dark color to match the general hue of the surrounding foliage. The Commission will be happy to work with you on any questions which may arise as you fine tune the design.

The next meeting is scheduled for 16 March 1995 and we would be happy to review any revised landscape plans at that time.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

William D. Faught, Director
Installation Planning Division
Department of the Navy
Engineering Field Activity Chesapeake
Washington Navy Yard Building 212
901 M Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20364-5018